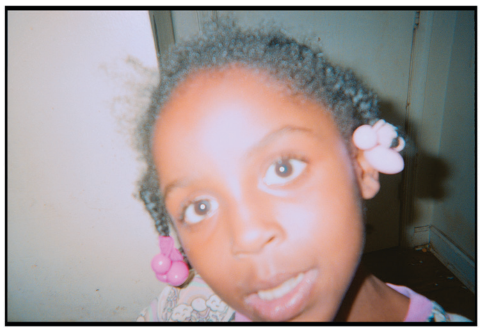
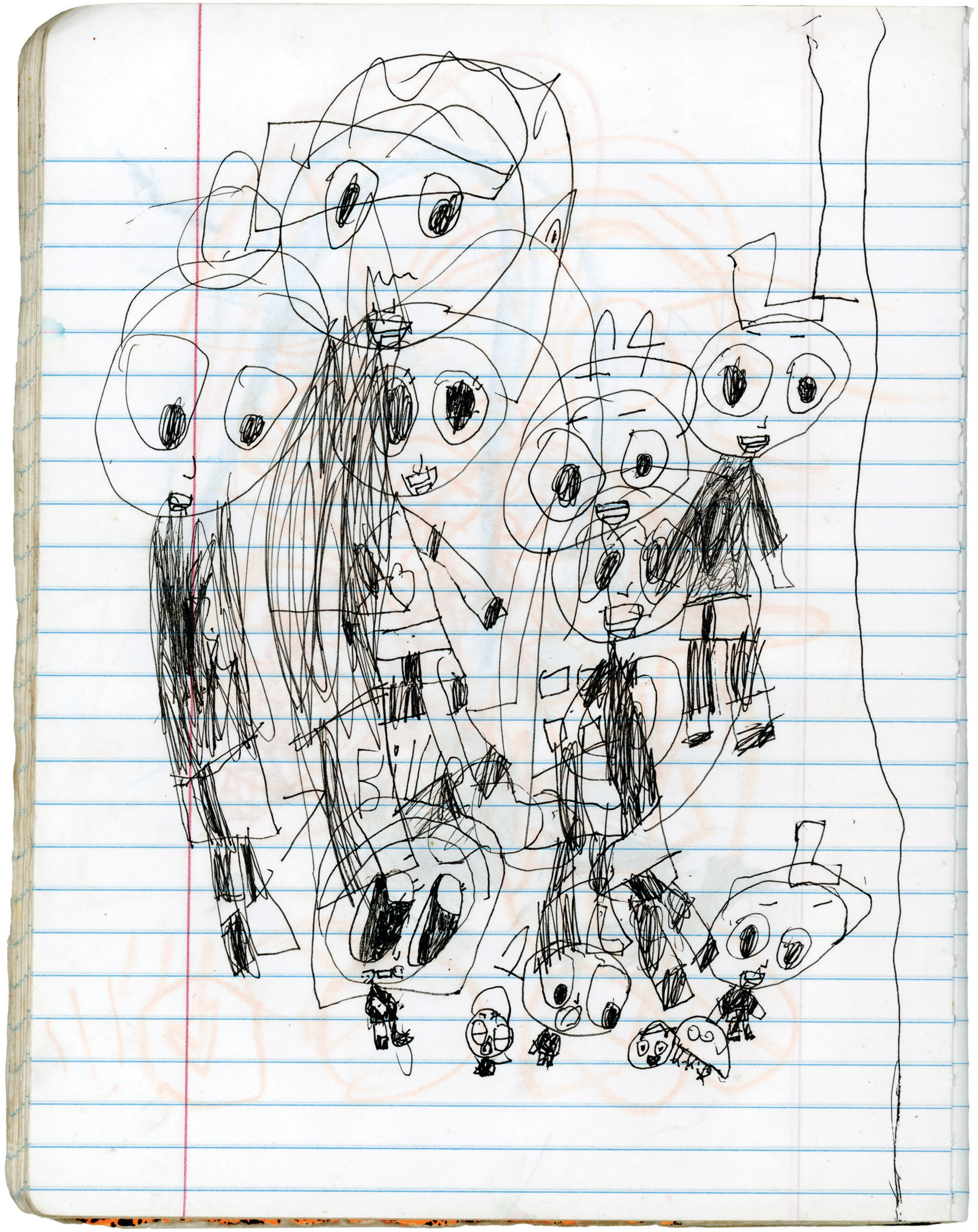


A SHAW DIARY

Situated just ten blocks from the White House, the historic Shaw neighborhood once stood as the cultural hub of Washington. They are the blocks that built the city's rhythm—shaping its culture through food, music, language, and love. What they gave was never transactional; it was an offering, rooted in pride and place, meant to anchor a city that was always changing. Meanwhile, for the past few decades, much of the community that gave D.C. its soul has been pushed to its margins.

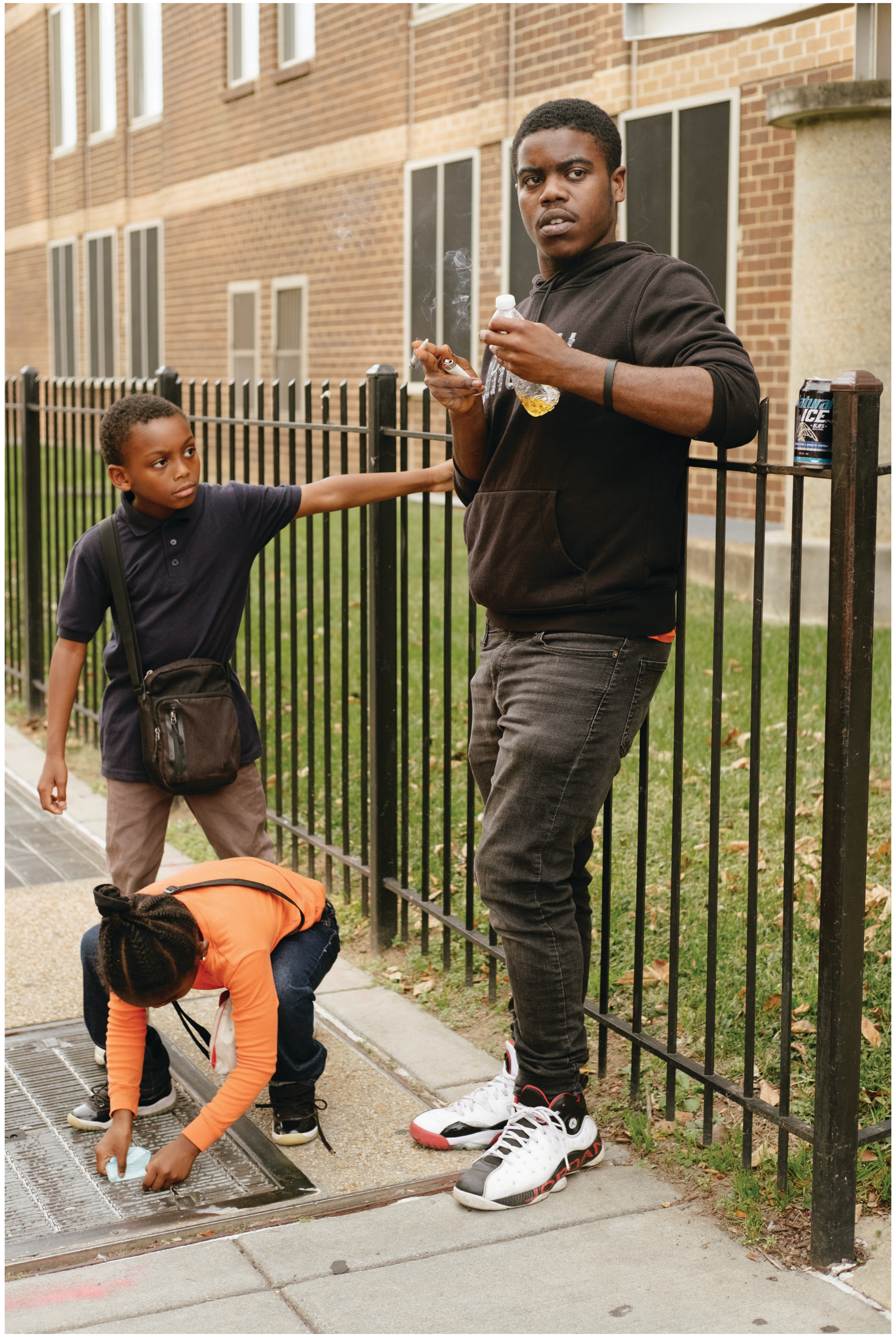
In Shaw, one multigenerational family stands as a mirror to this transformation. Long settled in the neighborhood, Reece Kearney, a mother of seven, and her family navigate the tension between memory and development, and community and displacement. Their story is not isolated—it echoes the experiences of countless others around the country who are actively resisting erasure. This project, created in collaboration with the family, bears witness to their daily lives as they adapt, endure, and preserve what still belongs to them.

"We're an average family trying to live through this whole situation, and we still try to be fly," Reece said. "We do. We still try to make sure we have our Uggs, our Jordans, and… and our North Faces on, but that shit hard... That shit hard."



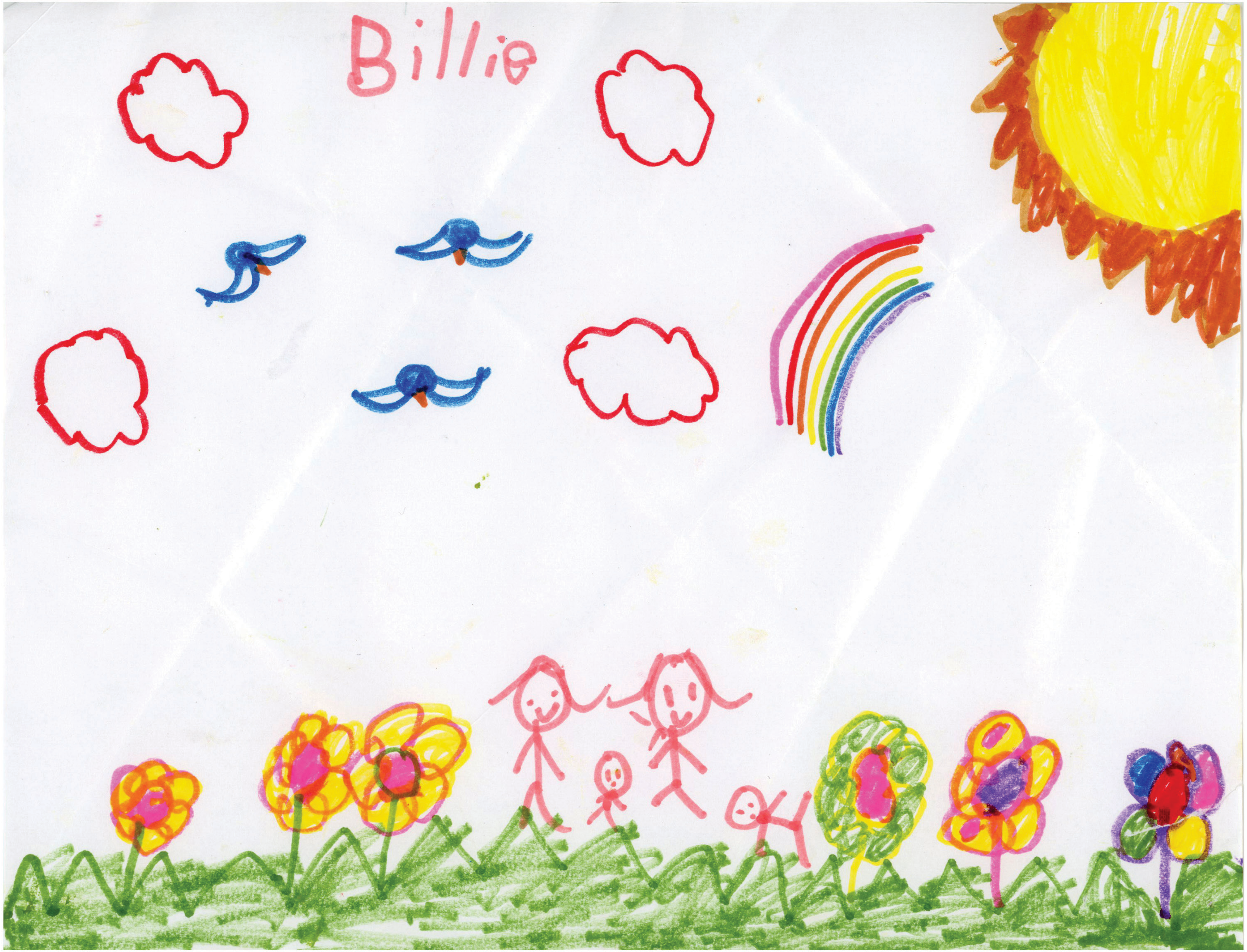
Billie's drawing of the family.

Reece's eldest son Jamari, 19, waits with his half siblings Billie and Braylen, for their mother before heading to Jamari's drug test so he can apply for a job at the D.C. airport. To make sure he passed, he uses his brother Braylen's urine. Jamari, who did not get the job,
is now 21 years old.



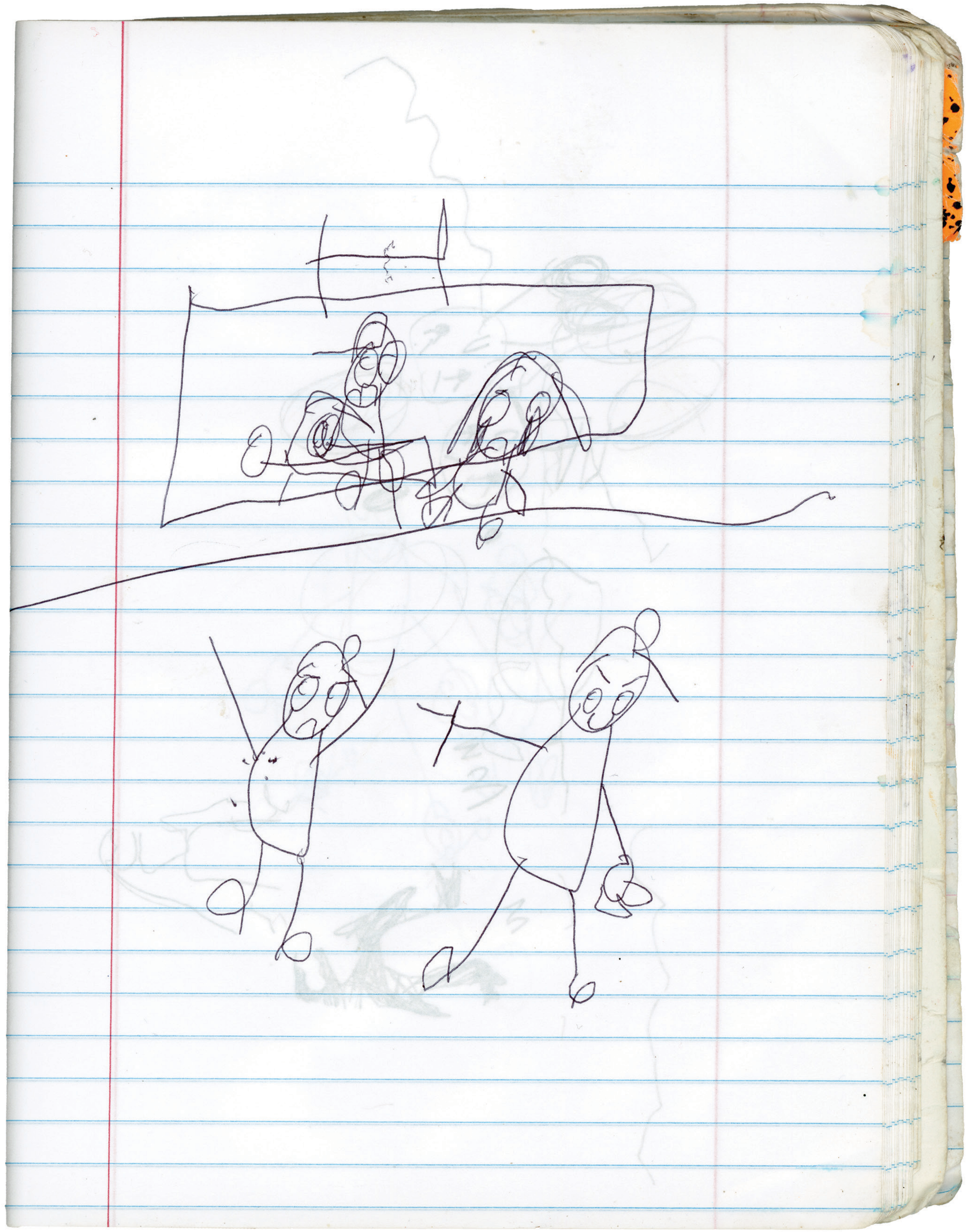
IMPORTANT INFO
Effective 11/27 our hours of operation will be changing to be 8am-10pm Sun-Sat.
Giant
Welcomes The Use Of
Thank You

MY SUNNY ISLA



A drawing by Billie.

“Why is the cop parked there?” Billie asked. “Mom says it’s because of the guns. Sometimes you hear them go pop pop pop.”



A drawing by Braylen.

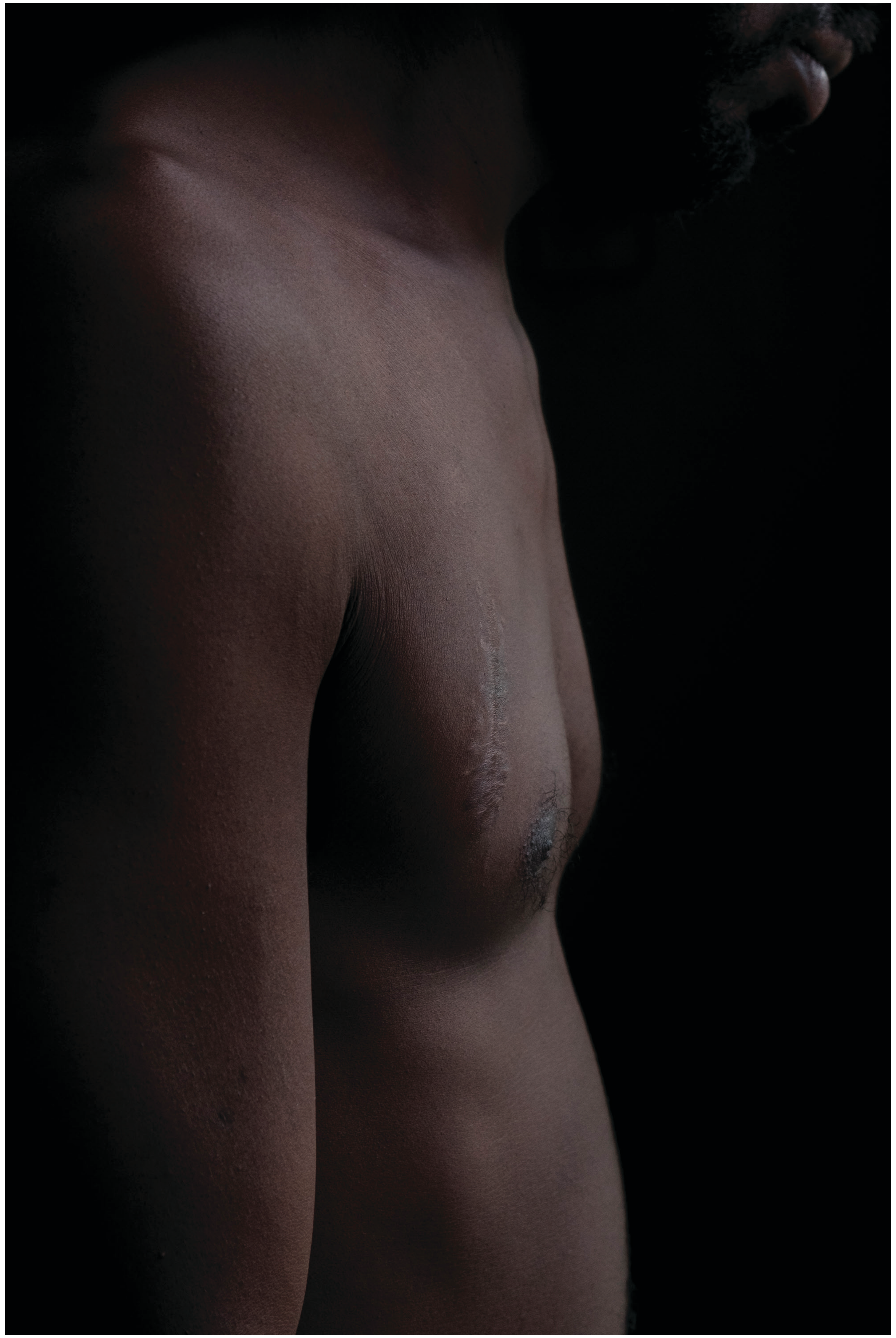
MUSEUM

The family’s turtle Mario
swims in the bathtub.

354

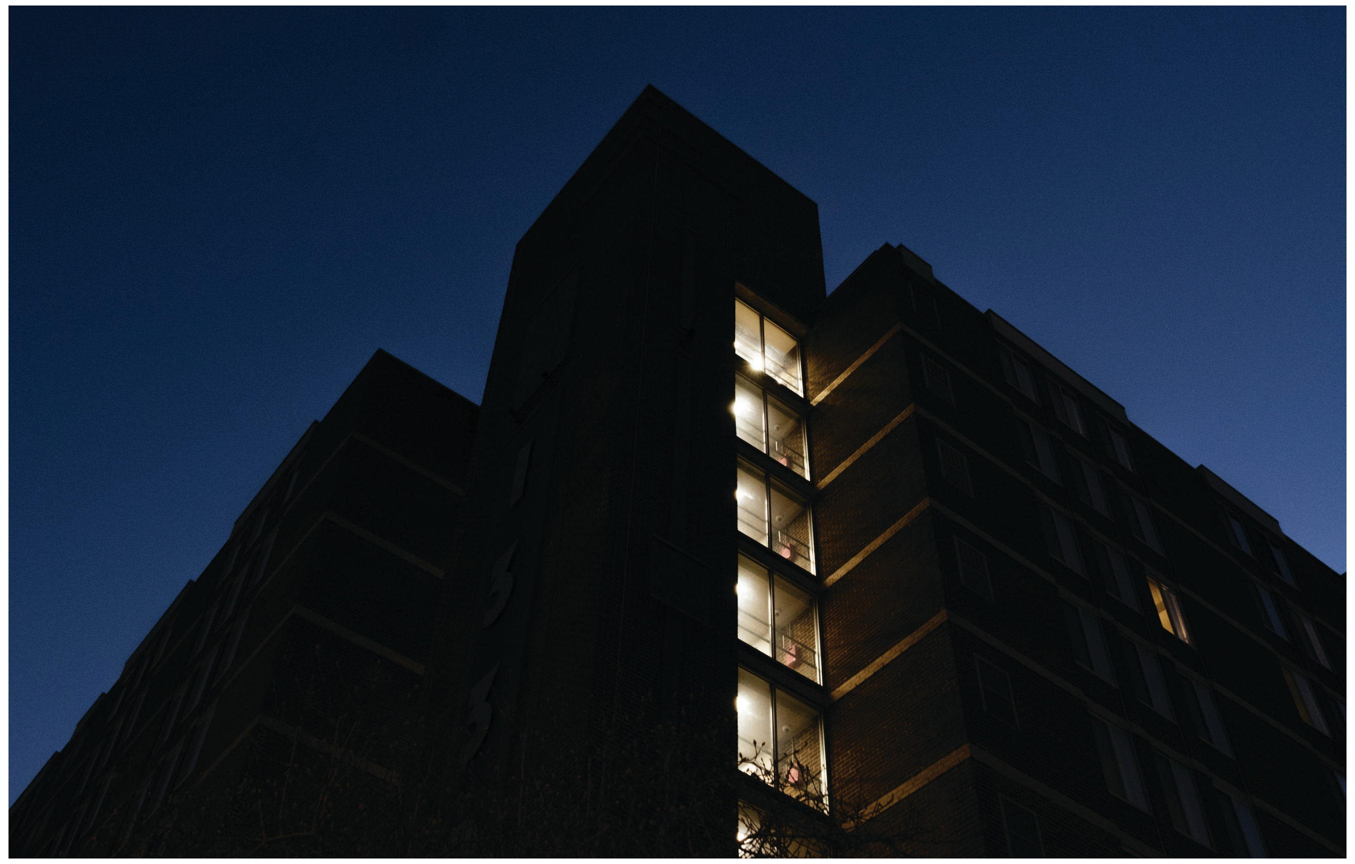
JUST
DO

“This one is when [Reece] got me with a beer bottle.”



DECK

Brad tries to get Brent to stop crying while watching the Superbowl in their apartment on February 9, 2025, in Washington, D.C.



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